

Canton April 21, 1816

Accept my warmest thanks Friend of my heart for your goodness in so fully overlooking the errors of my dear Friend - How can I express my gratitude to you the best of men - Words would be feeble representatives of the emotions of my soul as I perused your two last letters -

They were a healing balm, a cheering cordial to my before grief swollen heart - What felicity may I not expect from one so capable of bestowing happiness -

And have I given pain to one so dear? Pray forgive me - it was what I never intended. No, not for words would I wound the feelings of any one - particularly those endeared to me by the sacred ties of Friendship and esteem - I trust your goodness will pardon any unpleasant feelings, the observation in my last may have caused you - and do I beg of you erase it from your memory -

The heart of man is liable to change - And I knew not what would be your feelings, when you learnt the misfortune of my family - I knew not but you would think I had done wrong in not giving you earlier information - But it was a trial ~~great~~ a great trial to me, to mention it, even to you - Not that I feared to confide in you - But she who was the cause of my sorrow, occupied the place of one that I trust is now a Saint in Heaven - One that was dear, very dear to my heart. And you I believe would have felt as I did had you been placed in the same situation. But now, that you know it, and I know your sentiments upon the subject - there is a heavy burden removed from my mind - I feel a freedom to converse with you upon the subject, such as I never before felt - And O! there is a sweet consolation in it -



you tell me you shall leave Chester for Canton in September. it is a long time - But I have learnt to be patient - Yes I will cheerfully submit to be separated from you six long months, since you say so -

In the mean time I hope to hear frequently from you. Do write often it is the only thing that will reconcile me to so long a separation - You will please to direct your letters to this place - as I have given up the idea of being long absent from here.

My Father's health is better than when I last wrote - but he is still very unwell.

I have I ever mentioned to you an Orphan that I have had under my care this four years past - To-morrow she completes her 14<sup>th</sup> year - and of course will soon choose her Guardian - She is much attached to me, and very desirous to continue with me - I felt unwilling to engage to keep her without first consulting you - As I now consider I have no right to make a four years engagement, of that nature without your approbation, she will have a good home in my Brother's family should she leave me. But the dear Child has a most affectionate heart and it sensibly grieves her, when any one of the Family speaks of the parting scene - which frequently happens. If agreeable to you I should be pleased to keep the dear Girl - If not she must seek a mother elsewhere. I expect to spend the ensuing summer in quiet retirement with a few chosen friends - As there is no society in this Town that is at all interesting to me - The letters of Cephas will constitute my only amusement - In solitary hours when trouble or grief assails me - I flee to those precious letters, as I would to



the Author was he here, and I ever find them a  
sweet soother of all cares. I think Cephas you will  
not again withhold from me such precious pledges  
of your esteem, since you now know how highly  
your letters are prized by Louisa.

I must again thank you for so kindly overlooking  
the errors of my Step-mother, did she know it, her  
heart would overflow with gratitude - for she is sensible  
of her fault - but has not resolution to correct it.

Will you Cephas, will you as freely forgive my errors?  
Yes methinks you will - But I hope and trust not  
without first endeavoring to correct them.

I feel it the duty, of those who journey through  
life together, to draw a mantle of charity over  
the failings of their fellow travellers - and to make  
ample allowance for the frailties of human nature.  
But at the same time their duty commands them  
by every gentle means, to correct those failings.  
And ~~you~~ you my friend I shall ever expect to  
find a kind Monitor - Tell me Cephas may I  
not expect it?

You all ready see some of the many and great  
favours I have to ask - You will require all your  
patience for heaven only knows how frequent  
will be my petitions - But I can assure you  
you will have an arduous task to perform to  
correct the errors of your inconsiderate

Louisa -

Cephas L R -



Coanton April 18/16 (17)

Capt. Cephus L. Prochwood

Foster Vermont

